

The Colored American

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DUTY OF THE GOVERNMENT

Attorney Edward Everett Brown Espousing a Cause that May End Lynching Evil.

A Review of the History of New England's Leading Barrister and Race Champion—Mob Violence Not a Sectional Question Our First Allegiance Due the Nation, then the State An Organization Supported by Constitution Congress Should Act.

An Afro-American now prominent in the public eye is Edward Everett Brown, a leading attorney of Boston. He was born in Dover, N. H., in 1858 and is the son of Chas. J. and Martha A. Brown, well known in that State.

He was graduated from Dover High School in 1878 where he fitted for Dartmouth College and was class orator. His oration on "Genius" was pronounced by competent critics to have been one of the ablest and most scholarly ever delivered by any student in the state. Mr. Brown took high rank in the languages; he was considered to be the best French and Latin scholar in the class. He early showed an aptitude for debate and a fondness for the law, and could always be found in the front ranks of the spectators when the session of the Supreme Court was held in his native city, to hear the great legal lights expound the doctrines of Blackstone and Kent.

He began his legal studies in the law office of Hon. John H. White, a distinguished New Hampshire jurist and Judge of Probate Court in the city of Dover, remaining in his office three years, applying himself diligently to master the abstruse problems of the law. The Judge took a special interest in him, and under his wise counsel and large experience he gained much practical and valuable knowledge. In 1881 Mr. Brown took a special course at Boston University Law School where he acquitted himself well, being very popular with the students and professors. While pursuing his studies at the University he entered the law office of the most distinguished attorney in the State of Massachusetts, one of the ex-Governors, the late Hon. William Gaston. His fellow-student in the office was Hon. Edwin U. Curtis, ex-Mayor of Boston.

Mr. Brown was presented for admission to the bar by Gov. Gaston and passed a successful examination, and was admitted to practice in Massachusetts in 1884. He opened a law office in Boston in company with James H. Wolff, the present Judge Advocate of the G. A. R. of Mass., and a few years afterwards formed the first colored law firm in Massachusetts, the firm being known as Walker, Wolf & Brown. After a number of years of successful practice, Mr. Walker withdrew from the firm, but Messrs. Wolf and Brown still continue as partners. Mr. Brown is considered to be one of the brightest young men at the bar. He is a keen cross-examiner and a powerful, eloquent and convincing jury advocate.

He has tried many important civil and criminal cases, and possesses, in a marked degree the respect of the bench and the bar. He is well known for the great interest he takes in race matters and is always willing to sacrifice his time, ability and money to secure equality of rights to the poor, despised and oppressed Negro. He possesses in the highest degree the confidence of his people; he is bold, manly and uncompromising. He framed the Anti-Lynching bill which is now attracting the attention of the whole country, and secured a unanimous indorsement by the able speech he delivered at Chicago before the Afro American Council. He is working faithfully for his bill to make lynching a crime against the Government of the United States, and to secure signatures to his

Anti lynching petitions which will be presented to Congress in December.

Mr. Brown is president of the most influential Negro organizations in Massachusetts: The Wendell Phillips Club, the Crispus Attucks Club; he is also First Vice President of the National League of the city of Boston. In politics he is a republican, but one who is outspoken when he thinks the party is not acting right toward its members.

Mr. Brown is married and has a beautiful home in Boston Highlands presided over by his charming wife. Many social functions occur at his hospitable home which is the center of attraction among strangers when they visit Boston. He is the brother of Madame Nellie Brown Mitchell and Miss Edna E. Brown, the well known vocalists.

Mr. Brown maintains his position with strong argument why a National Anti-Lynching Bill should be enacted by Congress. He said in his speech at Chicago:

"It is no longer a Negro or sectional question, for the lynching mania is spreading like a cancer over the whole country, sapping the life-blood of the Republic, undermining American institutions, and degrading the manhood and womanhood of the land. It teaches our youth to disregard the law and order, and look upon our courts of justice with contempt and will breed a race anarchists and nihilists; for the same element that would lynch a Negro without the form of a trial for some fancied grievance against their neighbor would burn down his house, his store or his factory."

He argues we are all National citizens before we are citizens of any state. Our first allegiance is to the United States Government, second to the state in which we live; this proposition being true, the first duty of the General Government, which is supreme upon every inch of American soil, is to protect its humblest citizen in any state whether black or white, rich or poor.

Article 14, Section I of the Constitution of the United States reads that, "No State shall deprive a citizen of life, liberty or property without due process of law."

Mr. Brown's contention is founded upon a well established legal principle that where the duly elected and accredited officials of a state sworn to uphold and administer the law show no disposition or make no honest effort to enforce their own police regulations, allowing prisoners who have been detained for trial to be taken from their jails by bands of lawless men, and murdered in their midst, many times participating in the commission of the horrible crime of lynching themselves. He claims that treason has been committed against the Government itself because the Constitution is being violated with impunity and an American citizen deprived of his life without due process of law by the state because of the acts of state officials. Therefore, the general Government in its great organic entity should rise in its majestic power and interfere in any state to protect the life of an American citizen as it did in 1861 when Sumner was fired upon and the greatest war of modern times was fought to overthrow the doctrine of state rights, and establish the supremacy of the United States as greater than any one state.

Bible Day Exercises.

Last Sunday Bible Day was appropriately observed by the Metropolitan Baptist Sunday school. A symposium of high literary merit, expressive of the effect and influence of the Bible, was presented under the supervision of Miss E. V. Russell, superintendent, and Rev. Robert Johnson, pastor. Some of the young people participating in the exercises were Charles Pryor and Jesse Chase; Misses Daisy Robb, Estelle Robinson, Marie Johnson, Mary Leftwich, E. McKenny, Lottie West and Pauline Overton.

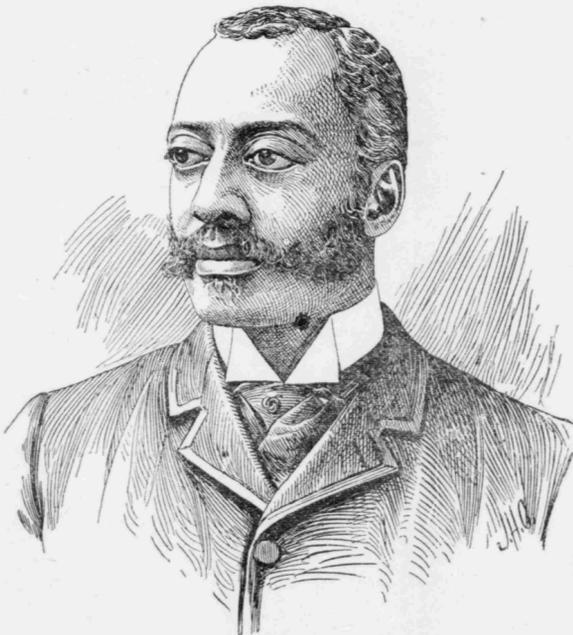
Mr. John L. Johnston, of Natchez, Miss., brother to Mr. W. R. Johnston, of the Recorder's office, will arrive in the city shortly, and will enter Howard University.

MEN OF THE HOUR



EDWARD EVERETT BROWN,

A Leading Attorney of Boston, Mass: Author and Champion of an Anti-Lynching Bill which Bids Fair to Work Great Good for the Race.



MAJOR CHARLES R. DOUGLASS.

Asks that the Law Guaranteeing Equal Civil Rights to All American Citizens be Tested Anew—Rebukes the Washington Negro for Bartering Away Dignity for Two Hours of Alleged Pleasure.

New Drug Store Opened.

St. Louis, Mo., Special.—E. H. Taylor, one of St. Louis' leading colored lawyers, who has been very successful at the bar in this city, has opened a first class drug store, something St. Louis has never had before. He has a first class stock of drugs and everything is fitted up very neatly. He is doing a good business. Mr. Taylor remains at his practice before the bar, and W. C. F. Crews, druggist, assisted by George Taylor, has charge of the store. Mr. Taylor has been one of the most successful colored lawyers before the St. Louis bar and during his six years of practice, has invested very heavily in real estate, and is today estimated to be worth \$15,000, and, no doubt, has a greater desire now than he had six

years ago to push on until he has placed himself among the greatest of the nation. Surely he remembers that favorite phrase of Shakespeare's, "put money in thy purse." These are the kind of men we want to help the race on to their goal.

Every one I speak to says he wants The Colored American, and I hope by the first of January to have it in one thousand homes. M. J. B.

Rev. O. M. Waller is taking a course of medical instruction at Howard University. It is said that Mr. Waller may be selected to fill the next vacancy on the Board of School Trustees. No better choice could be made whenever a change is decided upon.

WHERE THE BLAME BELONGS

Easily Satisfied Negroes Make it Profitable for Prejudiced Whites to Discriminate.

Major Chas. R. Douglass Reads a Timely Lesson to the Colored People Who Paid Money to Washington's "Jim Crow" Theater for the Privilege of Being Insulted—Bartering Manhood Rights for One Evening's Pleasure—A Deserved Gallery Would Have Been a Proper Rebuke.

Editor Colored American:—The movement initiated during last week by Manager P. B. Chase of the New Grand Opera House, to re-establish the color line of ante-bellum days in our theaters, has been fully indorsed by our own Negro population, beginning with our present prominent representative men, and going down the line to the boot-black and kitchen-girl element of society, from "Quality Row" to "Blood Field;" indorsement came for the new movement by hundreds, yes, thousands flocking to this "New Grand." Buying their tickets at the main entrance, and then being rudely ordered out again into the street, they wended their way for fully two blocks to a dark and dingy side entrance, climbed a fire escape ladder and got into the gallery. These Negroes took their medicine with a single gulp and a grin, and took their seats wherever ordered. The thing worked so smoothly and profitably to the management that no surprise need be felt if all the other theaters spring the same dose upon them. They have fully earned it and deserve it by their conduct in permitting themselves to be proscribed for the sake of a few hours entertainment.

Hearing of the stirring scenes transpiring at this south side theater, I went down on Wednesday night, and took a stand in front of the main entrance where I could witness for myself the acceptance, by hundreds of our people, of as gross an indignity and insult as has been put upon us here since 1865; and I saw crowds of well dressed and refined appearing males and females of our race, laughing and merry, climbing the iron ladder to the Negro galleries, to witness a vaudeville show. Did they have self respect? Bah! Some of our leading literary lights who read fine papers before our Bethel Literary and Historical Association, on our race progress, self-respect, higher education manhood and other Negro problems, jostled each other in their eagerness to climb the iron steps and get into the gallery set apart for them. Oh! how humiliated I felt at the scene! It seemed to me as though a quarter of a century had been wasted on these people. Had it been only the ignorant masses I could have found some consolation in the thought that they knew no better; but such was not the case, for there were professional men, statesmen, men in high official positions, school-teachers, clerks and students. The first night they were excusable for going, but when they knew, as they did know, what occurred on that night, there was no excuse for their continuing their attendance night after night right on through the week. All of them looked alike to Manager Chase and they had to fare alike.

The managers of the other theaters will now call on Manager Chase and inquire how he managed his "niggers" last week. "Well," he will reply, "They kicked a little at first; that is a few of them who think they are as good as white folks, but the majority of them went where I sent them. You know that they are a docile race, easy to handle when they see that you are in earnest. Yes, they would not have missed seeing that show for a seat in paradise, no matter where you put them. No, we did not lose a dollar, the thing worked so smoothly, and

besides they comprised about nine-tenths of our patronage."

Thus it is, that the prejudice that we are continually bemoaning as being on the increase here in Washington, we, ourselves, are fostering. We are constantly contributing to our own degradation by our acceptance of degrading conditions in things that are not necessary to our welfare. I can't conceive how a person can sit for two hours and enjoy an entertainment, fresh from the presence of a deep insult from the manager, to whom you have handed over your money. He receives your patronage, and insults you for thanks.

I heard some of our people boasting that they got by the ushers on the lower floor unobserved, because they were so fair. I saw something of this myself. I stood beside a policeman who called my attention to two gaily attired females as they strode up to the ticket office. He said to me, "They are colored, they live in the Division, and they will go on the first floor too," and so they did. These were some of Manager Chase's "regular patrons," of whom he was so solicitous of their comfort, and did not intend that their company should be intruded upon by respectable Negroes.

The lack of self-respect is our greatest drawback in our march of progress. We act more like children than men and women, and are seemingly unable to restrain ourselves, or to deny ourselves.

Some of our statesmen urged as an excuse for accepting indignities at the hands of Manager Chase, that they could not afford to resent the insult for fear of the consequences at their Southern homes. The thought never occurred to them that they could at least remain away, and not be a party to their own disgrace. But no, they must see Williams and Walker. Their joy, comfort and happiness depended upon it, and they must go at any cost of money or self respect, even if they have to go on the roof and look down the chimney. And now Manager Chase is boasting that last week was the greatest financial success of the season, and the insulted Negroes made it so. He says that this is a Southern city and it will remain so, and "Southern methods must prevail here. If the ninety-thousand Negroes here, allow it, they deserve to be slaves. Patronize your own theaters. Build your own theaters as you do your churches, and you will find talent enough to put into them. The time is at hand when we should think seriously of this matter. Are we forever to be dependent upon the whites for theaters, hotels, cafes, and stores of all descriptions? Can we ever escape these indignities so long as we continue to flood their pockets with our money and look up to them beseechingly for our every want? I think not.

CHAS. R. DOUGLASS.

In Memory of J. Frank Boston.

At their last monthly meeting Bancker Relief Association held memorial exercises in honor of their late president, Mr. J. Frank Boston. Resolutions of the deepest respect were adopted, testifying to the high character and worth of the deceased, and touching addresses were delivered by Messrs. Hamilar Turley, Aaron Russell, Sr., Leon Turner and several others.

Mr. Giles I. Cuffey and Miss Sarah S. Wells were married last Wednesday evening by Father Dougherty, at the bride's residence, 1631 O street north-west. Many valuable and useful presents were received by the happy pair, who left on a wedding tour at 11 p. m. The reception will take place on Thanksgiving Day at Portsmouth, Va., the home the groom. They will reside in the future in this city.

Capt. P. B. Meredith is in poor health.